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Downtown News

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In the Spotlight

The last of the grand old Victorian houses on Church Street, the Summerlin House, has a bright new future. Read about the new owners of the property on the back page under Preservation News. This circa 1895 house displays one of the best examples of intricate sawn and turned spindle porch ornamentation in the Central City of Rocky Mount.

Ask Us About the 10% Tax Credit!

We have worked with several property owners of buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places who have been interested in preservation tax credits, but there are also very good incentives for property owners who have commercial property that may not be listed on the National Register. One of these incentives is the 10% credit for rehabilitation of buildings built before 1936. Call the Downtown Development Office to discuss this option for older buildings in the revitalization district.



**Bright Idea
for this issue:**

Wouldn't it be great if some of the buildings in downtown no longer had closed up windows on their upper floors? Call the Downtown Development office at 972-1267 for some low-cost ideas for improving the appearance of upper level windows in downtown buildings.

NC Department of Transportation Board Members Tour Downtown Train Station

Board members of the North Carolina Department of Transportation visited Rocky Mount on November 2 to see firsthand the product of state and federal transportation enhancement monies which were awarded to the Train Station Renovation project. Mayor Fred Turnage welcomed the board members to Rocky Mount on behalf of the City and introduced Secretary of Transportation, David McCoy, who described the downtown Rocky Mount station project as "a source of pride for Eastern North Carolina and the entire state."

Board member Sam Erby, Jr. from Catawba County in western NC, summed up the sentiments of his fellow board members when he stated that the train station project was the type of project that could help communities improve transportation options for the benefit of the entire state.

Local DOT board member Clark Jenkins was recognized for his support of the project and other area road projects. An official grand opening ceremony is being planned for the station in early December.



Rocky Mount City Council Members were among the local dignitaries who welcomed DOT board members to tour the train station.

New Businesses and Business Expansions Add to Growth in Downtown Rocky Mount

Need a beautiful bouquet to celebrate a grand opening or send a friend? Have a wedding coming up and want quality photographs and personal attention? How about a great new pair of comfortable and stylish shoes? You can find all these in new businesses that have recently opened or are soon to open in downtown Rocky Mount. Floral arrangements and unique gifts are available at **Gloria's Dream** at 235 SE Main. Photographer Tony Scott has his studio at **Country Studio** at 125 NE Main. **Connie's Boutique & Accessories** has just opened on 118 Sunset Avenue, and **Williams Music & Fashions** is new to 125 Sunset Avenue. **Footprints**, a shoe store, is soon to open at 115 Tarboro Street.

Businesses which have recently expanded into additional downtown space from their present locations include **Towel Town** and **J.J.Harper's Books** on SW Main.

Preservation Rocky Mount Works with DRI To Find New Owner for Summerlin House



Preservation Rocky Mount, in cooperation with Downtown Renaissance, has been successful in finding new owners for last surviving Victorian era house on Church Street. Known as the Summerlin House, the property was deeded to PRM and DRI by Janet Marue Summerlin of Greensboro. The house was the homeplace of the Summerlin family.

In September, Theodore and Velva Nowak purchased the Summerlin House with protective covenants to assure that the house will be rehabilitated to preserve its unique historic features. The Nowaks were attracted to the Summerlin house for its convenient access to the newly renovated train station and because of the revitalization efforts in downtown Rocky Mount.

Preservation Rocky Mount is preparing for special holiday events to highlight preservation efforts in the community, including a holiday tour of the Rocky Mount Mills Village to see the progress being made on the restoration of many of the homes in the mill village. For information about the events or membership information for Preservation Rocky Mount, contact Jean Bailey at 446-1422.

Did You Know..

The City of Rocky Mount and Edgecombe County are seeking Requests for Proposals for the rehabilitation of the Old United States Post Office building on Tarboro Street in downtown Rocky Mount. RFP's will be accepted until February 1, 2001. For additional information or to receive an RFP package, contact the Downtown Development Office at 972-1267.

City Council Names Central City Revitalization Panel Group to Hold First Meeting on November 13

The Rocky Mount City Council appointed the first members of the new Central City Revitalization Panel at their October 23 Council meeting. Duties of the panel will include working with the Downtown Development Office on the Building Improvement Grant Program for commercial properties in the downtown revitalization area. The following individuals were named to the panel:

Central City Property Owner-John Kincheloe; Central City Business Owner-Virginia Davis; Downtown Renaissance Member-Chris Miller; Rocky Mount Historic Preservation Commission-Wes Bailey; RMECDC-Marvilo Gay; architect with experience in historic buildings-Paul Sirek; builder and developer /Chamber of Commerce-Jimmy Rabil; banker, Don Raper, Jr.; nonprofit agency with downtown offices, John Mebane, and Rocky Mount Redevelopment Commission member-Kay Thomas. City of Rocky Mount staff members working with the panel are Kaye R. Edmisten, Downtown Development Manager, and Director of the Planning Department, Mary Grace Fariello.

Congratulations to these individuals for agreeing to help in the revitalization efforts!

Opportunities for Investment in Downtown

The properties listed below are only a partial listing of investment opportunities in the central city area. This information is published solely to promote the public interest in revitalization of the central city as part of the overall economic improvement of the City of Rocky Mount. Neither the Downtown Development Office nor the City of Rocky Mount has any intent to act in any capacity as an agent for the sale or lease of these properties. For more information about a listing, or to add a property to the list, contact the Downtown Development office at 972-1267.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR SALE

105 Marigold: 6,000 sq. ft. with heat and air. Contact William C. Kirkwood 443-2919.

134 NW Main: 4,400 sq. ft. with heat and air. Contact William C. Kirkwood 443-2919.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES FOR LEASE

Train Station-Prime office space on the third floor. Contact Downtown Development 972-1267.

Check Us On Line

The Downtown Development Office receives calls and e-mails daily from people who have visited our internet link on the City of Rocky Mount web site. The site includes the most recent and earlier editions of *Downtown News*, information about special events in downtown Rocky Mount, available property information, and other important information for people interested in downtown revitalization. The City web site is:

www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us

From that site, click on the Downtown Development link.